

Zwaanendael Maritime Celebration: "A Sailor's Life for Me" in Lewes, Del. on May 27 and 28, 2017

-Coming Memorial Day Weekend!-

(LEWES, Del.–May 16, 2017)–On Saturday and Sunday, May 27 and 28, 2017, the [Zwaanendael Museum](#), located at 102 Kings Highway in Lewes, Del. will present "A Sailor's Life for Me," the museum's sixth annual maritime celebration that explores seafaring lives of adventure, romance, excitement and hardships; and honors mariners who made the ultimate sacrifice. Activities will take place at several downtown Lewes locations including the Zwaanendael Museum, Canal Front Park, Lightship Overfalls and St. Peter's Episcopal Church. A complete schedule of events is included below. Except for tours of the Lightship Overfalls, admission to all activities is free and open to the public. For additional information, call 302-645-1148.



Zwaanendael Museum
historical interpreter

Andrew Lyter portraying a
World-War-I-era British
sailor.

2017 Zwaanendael Maritime Celebration: "A Sailor's Life for Me"

Schedule of Events

Saturday, May 27, 2017

Zwaanendael Museum, 102 Kings Highway, Lewes

–"Life at Sea" demonstrations, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

Swab the deck, learn about shipboard food, play "Crown and Anchor" and other Colonial-period games and serve on a block-and-tackle station where visitors will be drilled by a demanding mariner looking for new crew members

–Displays and demonstrations on local maritime history, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

Presented by a variety of local organizations including the [Indian River Lifesaving Station](#); the [Lewes Historical Society](#); the Lightship Overfalls and the Overfalls Foundation; and the [Marine Education, Research and Rehabilitation Institute](#) (MERR)

Canal Front Park, 211 Front St., Lewes

–Living-history encampment, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

Historical re-enactors will portray sailors and mariners from the American Revolutionary War to the Korean War with a spotlight on World War I in commemoration of the centennial of America's entrance into the Great War. Activities include displays, demonstrations and musket drills

Lightship Overfalls, 219 Pilottown Road, Lewes (next to Canal Front Park)

–Sound pipe demonstrations, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

Demonstrations on the use of sound pipes which were used by the Overfalls to produce distinct and powerfully audible warnings during the presence of thick fog or mist

–Tours of the Overfalls, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

Visit this National Historic Landmark that was the last lightship built by the United States Lighthouse Service. Last tour at 3:30 p.m. Admission \$5 for adults and children over 14 years of age



Lightship Overfalls

Sunday, May 28, 2017

Zwaanendael Museum, 102 Kings Highway, Lewes

–“Lost Off Lewes: The British Warship DeBraak,” tours at 9 and 11 a.m., and 12:30 p.m.

Participants will meet at the Zwaanendael Museum where they will board a van that will transport them to an offsite conservation facility for a guided tour of the surviving hull section of His Majesty’s Sloop DeBraak which sank off the Delaware coast on May 25, 1798. Admission is free, but due to limited seating, reservations are required by calling 302-645-1148 no later than Thursday, May 25, 2017



Artistic rendition of the capsizing of the DeBraak by Peggy Kane, 1990.

-Colonial games, 1:30–4 p.m.

-Wreath-laying ceremony honoring crew members of the DeBraak, apx. 3:30 p.m.

Featuring historical re-enactors, a bugler and a bagpiper, this ceremony will take place at the DeBraak Memorial located on the museum grounds. The site contains the remains of several crew members who lost their lives in the sinking of the DeBraak

Canal Front Park, 211 Front St., Lewes

-Living-history encampment, 9 a.m.–2 p.m.

Historical re-enactors to portray sailors and mariners from the American Revolutionary War to the Korean War with a spotlight on World War I in commemoration of the centennial of America's entrance into the Great War. Activities include displays, demonstrations and musket drills

St. Peter's Episcopal Church cemetery, 211 Mulberry St., Lewes

-Wreath-laying ceremony at the tomb of James Drew, captain of the DeBraak, 3 p.m.

Featuring historical re-enactors, a bugler and a

bagpiper, participants will lay a wreath on Capt. Drew's grave, followed by a walk to the Zwaanendael Museum for a wreath-laying ceremony honoring other crew members of the DeBraak

The Zwaanendael Museum was built in 1931 to commemorate the 300th anniversary of the state's first European colony, Swanendael, established by the Dutch along Hoorn Kill (present-day Lewes-Rehoboth Canal) in 1631. Designed by E. William Martin (architect of Legislative Hall and the Hall of Records in Dover), the museum is modeled after the town hall in Hoorn, the Netherlands, and features a stepped facade gable with carved stonework and decorated shutters. The museum's exhibits and presentations provide a showcase for Lewes-area maritime, military and social history.



Zwaanendael Museum

-End-

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